



Dear VDTA:

I graduated from Austin College in Sherman, TX, with a Bachelor's degree in Physics and a minor in Math. While at AC, I traveled to England, France, Italy, and Ireland for classes in addition to working on the school newspaper, yearbook and advisory board. I was a pool and school record setter for the school swim team.

Upon graduation, I was accepted by Washington University-St. Louis into their physics graduate program.

—Amelia (Amy) Normandy  
2003 Scholarship Recipient

Dear VDTA:

I'm Aaron Herm from Pulaski, WI, and I received the VDTA Epstein Scholarship in 2003. I am now a junior at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and currently working on my application for the School of Education so that I can pursue my goal of being a high school social studies teacher. I'm also active in the marching band. In my three years here, I've traveled with the band to the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio, the Music City Bowl in Nashville, and the Outback Bowl in Tampa. We've also performed at two Green Bay Packer games.

After two tuition hikes in the last two years, I'm more grateful than ever for the VDTA Epstein Scholarship. Without it, I would never have been able to keep up with tuition and may have had to drop out of school or leave the band and spend every free minute working. Thank you again for your generosity and please keep giving the scholarship. From personal experience, I know that it is greatly appreciated.

—Aaron Herm  
2003 Scholarship Recipient



Dear VDTA:

I'm Andrew Neill and I am a senior at North Bend High School in North Bend, OR. I plan to attend the Charles Lindquist School of Business at the University of Oregon in Eugene, and study Business with an emphasis in nonprofit and a minor in Music.

I am active in my school cross country and track teams. I am a member of the North Bend High School symphonic, marching and jazz bands and a leader for the saxophone section. I also play drums and piano. I participate in Kiwanis Educated Youth (KEY) Club, National Honor Society, youth group and vacation Bible school.

I have been a lifetime member of Camp Fire USA. In 2004 I was awarded the Wohelo Medallion, the highest honor bestowed on a Camp Fire USA youth. Currently I am one of 12 youngsters participating in Camp Fire National Youth Advisory Cabinet (YAC). As member of YAC, I am involved in encouraging 735,000 Camp Fire youth to go into their communities and make a difference in the area of homelessness and hunger.

Through Camp Fire I have volunteered in developing the Saturday Low Income Children's Program, organized the Penny Drive for Camp Fire USA founders in Washington, D.C., and History Workshops for younger campers. In 2004, I helped with ground reparations for the Hooved Animals Protection Service in Chicago.

I was selected and attended, Boys State and have been nominated to represent the school in the Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

During the summers I work at Camp Wilani, a Camp Fire Camp nestled in the green woods of Veneta, OR. There I am the program director, counselor, archery and canoe instructor. During the year, I am the DJ and floor guard at Skate Wave, a local North Bend Skating rink.

I believe that it is possible to end homelessness and hunger through education, mentoring and the influence of positive role models. After graduating from the University of Oregon, I hope to make a difference in young lives by developing programs to teach them to use their time wisely and become role models themselves.

I am committed to this cause. I know that in the years to come, I will return to my community with a wealth of knowledge to share and to make a difference, however large and small, in the schools and organizations where children can benefit from what I have learned.

—Andrew Neill  
2005 Scholarship Recipient



Dear VDTA:

I am Molly Murphy, daughter of Jim and Maryellen Murphy from Shoppers Rule Inc. I was awarded the scholarship this year. Right now I am finishing my senior year in high school. Since being accepted at the four colleges in the state of Missouri that have degrees in both Art Education and Graphic Design, I have been trying to decide which college to choose. The VDTA/Bernie Epstein Scholarship has allowed me to have greater choice since it has given me additional finances to work with. I will be attending Fontbonne University in the fall. My senior year of high school has been great. I went to Japan as an exchange student in the fall and now am hosting the Japanese student I lived with in Japan.

I have to say a highlight of my senior year was a trip to Las Vegas to receive the VDTA/Bernie Epstein Scholarship award. Everyone was so kind to me and very excited for me. My dad was so incredibly proud of me and I was very honored to have been chosen.

—Molly Murphy  
2005 Scholarship Recipient

